

Wonderful Celebration of Culture



ORANJESTAD — It was the birthday of Madame Culture last weekend on the island. Our national theatre Cas di Cultura celebrated 60 years of existence while our Governmental Department of Culture reached 40 years. Together they make 100 years of culture a fact. Friday the Conference for the Performing Arts, called Arte di Tarima, was dedicated to this mile-stone,



Saturday a Gala concert was presented.

At the Conference for the Performing Arts, called Arte di Tarima, you could hear talks about the benefits of the arts for many aspects of a community: social, educational, economical, beautifying life and more. Five foreign orators and about six local speakers elaborated on how art and culture are manifested within the society they live and how they use both as tools to progress individuals, groups and their environment.

Emotional & Exceptional

The Gala Concert on Saturday was both emotional and exceptional. The 3-hour show presented 100 years of culture in a nutshell by means of a high-quality program with approximately 45 local artists and musicians and two invited guests: Louna Arens from Surinam and soprano Imara Thomas, Aruban living in Germany.

The show started with the song Show Must Go On sang by theatre director Vicky Arens and Lili Rodgers followed by E Rey di Gloria – Melange. Johnny Schaarbaai and Victor Camacho showed their talents on the piano while jolly Beach Lama presented a Calypso Medley. The dive into culture deepened with

'Pour toutes saisons je t'aime' beautifully sung by Louna Arens. Father and son Ivo & Sergio Jansen touched the audience with their guitar play while Jossy Brokke brought in his own sentiment with Mi Pais. Raspao, a song about the typical shaved ice in Aruba, moved the guests to sing alone due to the happy presentation of singer Edwin Abath. Potpourri Tres Cabayero brought some gentleman's touch with three local singers Michelangelo Koolman, C-Zar and Beach Lama presenting each a song. Climax of the night was the golden voice of Imara Thomas, soprano. Classic, bolero, modern and a medley with Jairo Boekhoudt made the Classical Diversity through Song a breath-catching experience. The public was entertained with a show that started off a bit tame, but got wild on the way. After the show there was an after party in the foyer where the Aruban sentiment was continued to be touched by the CdC Orchestra & Choir who by the way accomplished a marvelous presentation throughout the complete show. A standing applause was the reward for this spectacular evening where once again the importance of culture and identity was underlined in a great way! □